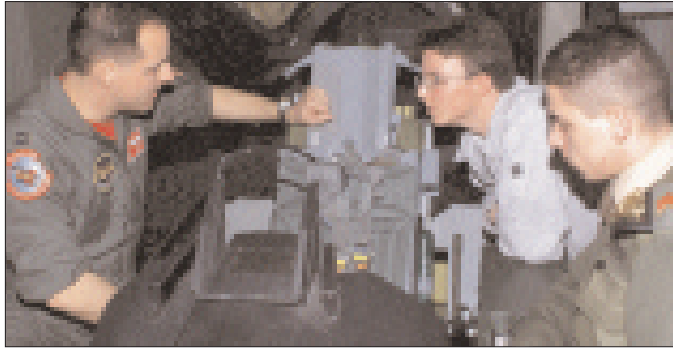


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Staff Sgt. Laura Sparks

Dreams come true

Capt. Barry O'Donnell, 22nd Fighter Squadron pilot, explains the interior of an F-16 cockpit to Sven Knepper and Luxembourg army member Mike Linster. Members of the 22nd FS teamed with the Make a Wish Foundation to make the 20-year-old Knepper's dream of seeing U.S. fighter aircraft up close come true. Knepper, from Junglinster, Luxembourg, is currently in remission from cancer. During the visit April 20, he learned about egress training, life support, was given a simulator ride and more.

Earth Week

Compiled from staff reports

Spangdahlem Air Base took part in Earth Week April 22 through 29 with activities ranging from a fish release to an environmental fair at a local school.

The two-day fair at Bitburg Elementary School drew more than 550 people, according to Franz Steffes, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight.

The idea behind Earth Week activities was to bring environmental awareness to the attention of people, make them a bit more sensitive toward its protection, and promote conservation and pollution prevention, according to Steffes.

The fish release was actually part of the base's 30th observance of Earth Day, April 22. Two-hundred European stream trout and Elritzen were released into a local stream.



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Members Spangdahlem village and the base watch Franz Steffes, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight, release 200 fish into a local stream April 26.



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Senior Airman Tina Chandler describes to Bitburg Elementary School students during the environmental fair and bird show April 28 why environmental awareness is important. Chandler uses books to illustrate the effects of neglecting the environment.



Courtesy photo

Tons of charity

Staff Sgt. Kurt Smith, 606th Air Control Squadron, unloads a box of donated items delivered to villages in the Czech Republic this past month. Volunteers working with the Spangdahlem chapel spent a week delivering 3.5 tons of toys, clothes, diapers and food to kindergartens, hospitals and orphanages in the Czech Republic, according to Birgit Schuh, chapel program support coordinator. In mid-April, 23 teenagers and eight adults from Spangdahlem's Club Beyond joined with 450 other teens from U.S. installations from Iceland, Brussels, SHAPE and Giessen for community service work in Hejnice and Raspenava, Czech Republic. While there, they built playground equipment for schools, transformed a coal storage room into a fitness center, painted schools, replaced worn fencing around a basketball court, built new fences, made driveways, played sports with local children, held vacation Bible school activities, and worshipped together with local residents. "You have represented your country well," said the local mayors of the teens. "The impression our people have of American teen-agers has not been so good, but you have changed that."

Awards continue to stack up for wing members at various levels

Compiled from staff reports

Air Force, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and 52nd Fighter Wing officials recently announced 1999 unit and individual award winners in intelligence, aviation and maintenance management, and quarterly awards for January through March.

Here's a look at the winners and their categories:

Intelligence

■Maj. Scott F. Murray, intelligence flight commander, recipient of the National Military Intelligence Association Maj. Gen. Jack E. Thomas Award. The award has been awarded since 1987 to a deserving Air Force intelligence member as a testimony to professional excellence and exceptional dedication to duty.

Aviation

■Maj. John Cherrey, 81st Fighter Squadron, USAFE Aviator of the Year, Fighter Category

Maintenance management

■Master Sgt. Alecia Chatham, 52nd Operations Support Squadron, USAFE Maintenance Management Systems Professional Award.

Quarterly awards

■Airman 1st Class Tiffany Ambrosia, 52nd Operations Support Squadron airman

■Staff Sgt. Ricardo Young, 52nd OSS NCO

■Senior Master Sgt. Cris Kahle, 52nd OSS senior NCO

■1st Lt. Julie Birt, 52nd OSS company grade officer

■Heike Norrell, 52nd OSS junior-

level civilian

■Cindy Simpson, 52nd OSS mid-level civilian

■Capt. Michael Loforti, 22nd Fighter Squadron company grade officer

■Master Sgt. Julie Foglesong, 22nd FS senior NCO

■Tech. Sgt. Fenton Davenport, 22nd FS NCO

■Airman 1st Class Christopher Beery, 22nd FS airman

■Capt. Jeff Styers, 23rd Fighter Squadron CGO

■Senior Master Sgt. Lawrence R. Cottle, 23rd FS senior NCO

■Tech. Sgt. Maurice J. Washington, 23rd FS NCO

■Airman 1st Class Jason M. Lannan, 23rd FS airman

■Staff Sgt. Joseph L. Shroka, 23rd FS dedicated crew chief

■Tech. Sgt. Daniel R. North, 23rd FS maintenance professional NCO

■Senior Airman Donnie G. Spivey Jr., 23rd FS maintenance professional airman

■Staff Sgt. Jeffrey J. Jackson, 23rd FS load crew chief

■Airman 1st Class Jeremy L. Matson, 23rd FS load crew "two-man"

■Airman 1st Class Jacob C. Madren, 23rd FS load crew "three-man" and base jammer driver

■Base load crew – Staff Sgt. Clint W. Borel, Airmen 1st Class Markeith Miller and Kevin Green, 22nd Fighter Squadron

Base team muscles past field to lifting title

Two members set new Spang records

By Staff Sgt. Bryan Purtell
52nd Fighter Wing public affairs

The Spangdahlem Powerlifting Team muscled its way to a dominating performance at the Armed Forces Powerlifting Championship Saturday at the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center.

With seven of 11 team members nabbing top-three finishes in individual weight classes, Spang annihilated the field to capture the team title with 102 points. SHAPE finished a distant second with 74 points and Ramstein Air Base captured third with a final score of 56.

Robin Riley led the home squad by overpowering the 275-pound weight class while setting four new Spangdahlem powerlifting records. Riley's record-setting performances in the squat (540 pounds), bench press (435) and dead lift (635)



Airman 1st Class Kimberlie Drews

Gary Goodman, member of the Spangdahlem powerlifting team, competes during Saturday's Armed Forces Championships at the base gym.

allowed him to also set a new base total lift record of 1,610 pounds.

Tobias Adams also set a new base record while capturing first place in the 148-pound class by deadlifting 501 pounds.

Other local first place finishers were Matthew Brookshire (123-pound weight class) and Matthew Green (132). Kenyatha Bryan – Spangdahlem's lone female participant – won the 160-pound class in the women's competition.

Stellar performances were also turned in by Spangdahlem's Max Rippel (second in 181-pound class), Gary Goodman (third in 220), William Mobley (fourth in 198), Bret Caswell (fourth in 220), Joshua Benninger (fifth in 165) and Willie Williams (fifth in 198).

More than 50 lifters representing bases from U.S. Air Forces in Europe, U.S. Army Europe and the U.S. Navy in Europe took part in the event. Prizes were awarded to the top three performers in each of 12 male and 10 female weight categories. The top three in each category also qualified for the International Powerlifting Federation Nationals to be held this weekend in Las Vegas.

Next up locally for the Spangdahlem Powerlifting Team is a May 20 meet at SHAPE.

The team is also looking for new members. Anyone interested in joining the squad should call Rippel at 452-6827.